



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

July 25, 2011

MR. JASON SMATHERS
NUMBER 3
185 BEACON STREET
SOMERVILLE, MA 02143

Request No.: 1170137- 000
Subject: SILK ROAD

Dear Mr. Smathers:

This responds to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request.

Based on the information you provided, we conducted a search of the indices to our Central Records System. We were unable to identify responsive main file records. If you have additional information pertaining to the subject and you believe it was of investigative interest to the Bureau, please provide us the details and we will conduct an additional search.

It is unnecessary to adjudicate your fee waiver request because no responsive main file records were found.

You may file an appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), U.S. Department of Justice, 1425 New York Ave., NW, Suite 11050, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001. Your appeal must be received by OIP within sixty (60) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be identified easily.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the FBI File Fact Sheet.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hardy", followed by a stylized flourish.

David M. Hardy
Section Chief,
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

Enclosure

FBI FILE FACT SHEET

- The primary function of the FBI is law enforcement.
The FBI does not keep a file on every citizen of the United States.
- **The FBI was not established until 1908 and we have very few records prior to the 1920's.**
- **FBI files generally contain reports** of FBI investigations of a wide range of matters, including counterterrorism, foreign counter-intelligence, organized crime/drugs, violent crime, white-collar crime, applicants, and civil rights.
- **The FBI does not issue clearances or nonclearances for anyone other than its own personnel or persons having access to FBI facilities.** Background investigations for security clearances are conducted by many different Government agencies. Persons who received a clearance while in the military or employed with some other government agency should write directly to that entity.
- **An FBI identification record or "rap sheet" is NOT the same as an FBI "file"** - it is simply a listing of information taken from fingerprint cards submitted to the FBI in connection with arrests, federal employment, naturalization, or military service. The subject of a "rap sheet" may obtain a copy by submitting a written request to FBI, CJIS Division, Attn: SCU, Mod. D-2, 1000 Custer Hollow Road, Clarksburg, West Virginia 26306. Each request must have proof of identity which shall consist of **name, date and place of birth and a set of rolled-ink fingerprint impressions** placed upon fingerprint cards or forms commonly utilized for applicant or law enforcement purposes by law enforcement agencies, plus **payment of \$18.00** in the form of a certified check or money order, payable to the Treasury of the United States.
- **The National Name Check Program (NNCP)** conducts a search of the FBI's Universal Index to identify **any** information contained in FBI records that may be associated with an individual and provides the results of that search to the requesting Federal, State or local agency. For the NNCP, a name is searched in a multitude of combinations and phonetic spellings to ensure all records are located. The NNCP also searches for both "main" and "cross reference" files. A main file is an entry that carries the name corresponding to the subject of a file while a cross reference is merely a mention of an individual contained in a file. The results from a search of this magnitude can result in several "hits" and "idents" on an individual. In each instance where UNI has identified a name variation or reference, information must be reviewed to determine whether it is applicable to the individual in question.
- **The Record/Information Dissemination Section/Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts (FOIPA)** search for records provides copies of FBI files relevant to a FOIPA request for information. FOIPA provides responsive documents to requesters seeking "reasonably described information." For a FOIPA search, the subject name, event, activity, business, or event is searched to determine whether there is an investigative file associated with the subject. This is called a "main file search" and differs from The NNCP search.

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE FBI,
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT
<http://www.fbi.gov>